

**Land & Water Conservation Committee  
Minutes  
September 18, 2013**

**1. Call to Order:**

The monthly meeting was called to order by Walt Christensen at 8:30 a.m. Committee members Sarah Bregant, Walt Christensen, Matthew Foelker, Carlton Zentner, and Scott Zimmerman (@ 8:34) were present. Also in attendance were Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and Christopher Deegan, Department of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection (DATCP).

**2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):**

A quorum was established.

**3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:**

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

**4. Review of the September Agenda:**

The September agenda was reviewed by the committee members.

**5. Review and Approval of the August Meeting Minutes**

Sarah Bregant made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes as written, Matt Foelker seconded. Motion carried 4/0.

**6. Communications**

There were no communications at this time.

**7. Citizen Comments:**

Beth Gehred, Town & Country Resource Conservation & Development, Inc., talked to the committee in regard to programs being offered by Town & Country. Waterstar webinars have resumed. September 24, 2013 North Central Technical College in Wausau, WI will host a workshop, Income Opportunities in Agriculture, geared toward women, minority and urban farmers. Town & Country's Vision Team's final meeting for this year will be October 10, 2013.

**8. Jefferson County Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Quarantine by DATCP - Christopher Deegan**

The EAB was first identified in 2002 in Michigan. UW-Whitewater was the first to identify it our region which prompted a search of the campus area. The search showed signs of EAB just inside Jefferson County. Continued checks then showed it in Watertown (@ Riverside Park) and Oconomowoc which lead to Jefferson County's quarantine. EAB only affects Ash Trees. All Ash products are to stay in the quarantined area. Hardwood firewood, regardless of species, is also to stay in the quarantined zone. An EAB infestation is very hard to identify without peeling the bark of the tree, which would also kill the tree. It may take 4-5 years to know that the tree is infected and only takes 5-6 years for EAB to kill the tree. DATCP and the Department of Natural Resources are working on many types of treatments such as hybridization with the Asian Ash which tolerates the borer and bio-control (using other bugs to fight EAB).

**9. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Report:**

See attached. Dennis Vollmer was absent. The report will be revisited during the October meeting.

**10. Federal Farm Bill & Possible Resolution Development - Walt Christensen**

This item will be added to next month's agenda for further review. Part of the bill has been delayed due to the house having trouble agreeing on certain programs, i.e. SNAP and food stamps. Walt requested that this committee put together a resolution of support for County Board approval, supporting the bill. We, as a committee, should support this bill. It's important to our farmers and our county as a whole.

**11. 2014 Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Budget - Mark Watkins**

We are under the target and levy limit for 2014. See attached.

**12. Notice of Noncompliance with Soil & Water Conservation Requirements - Farmland Preservation Program (FPP):**

None at this time

**13. Cancellation of Noncompliance - Farmland Preservation Program:**

None at this time

**14. Status of Cropland at Old Countryside Home Farm - Mark Watkins**

Status remains the same. Demo of the old building will start soon. After this is complete we'll have a better picture of the site. As of now, we think there will be approximately 22 acres of cropland. It's not known how long it would take to get this land back into production. It may take years. Scott Zimmerman made a motion to draft a letter to Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator and John Molinaro, County Board Chairman/Supervisor, in regard to having the highway shop site construction manager keep track of the topsoil on site. None of the topsoil should leave the grounds and it should be placed for cropland. Matt Foelker seconded. Motion carried 5/0.

**15. Monthly Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) Financial Report - Mark Watkins**

Due to county-wide 2014 budget meetings, we haven't received an updated financial report for this month. A verbal report was given by Mark Watkins stating the department's budget remains healthy.

**16. Set next meeting and possible agenda items:**

It was decided by the members that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Land & Water Conservation Committee will be held on October 16, 2013 at 8:30 in **Room 112**. Possible agenda items include: Items #9 - #15.

**17. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Scott Zimmerman and seconded by Matt Foelker at 9:37 a.m. Motion carried 5/0.